I. **SCOPE.** This method covers the procedure for obtaining representative samples of membrane curing compounds to be used in highway construction.

II. **APPARATUS.** The apparatus shall consist of the following:

   A. **Agitating Equipment.** Any equipment suitable for agitating and/or mixing the contents of the container to be sampled until all settled matter is in suspension, and the entire contents of the container are homogeneous. (Note 1).

   B. **Sampling Device.** Any device suitable for sampling barrels or similar container will be adequate. (Note 2).

   C. **Sample Container.** A one to two quart (1-2 Liter) metal container with tight fitting lid. It shall be clean and free of water, lint, dirt, washing compounds, solvents, acid, rust, oil, etc.

III. **SAMPLES.**

   A. Samples shall be representative of the material and shall be a minimum of one quart (1 Liter) in size. One sample shall be necessary for each batch or lot represented.

   B. Obtaining a representative sample of membrane curing compounds may be difficult at temperatures below 70°F (21°C). It is useless to attempt to sample frozen containers. Wax or mixed base compounds tend to freeze or congeal as the temperature falls below 50°F (10°C) and approaches 32°F (0°C). Such semi-solid liquids cannot be effectively sampled until the temperature is raised to 70°F (21°C) and mixed until homogeneous. During cold weather, material to be sampled should be kept in heated storage overnight or longer, prior to sampling. If frozen or congealed, a much longer period may be required.

   C. The following information shall accompany each sample submitted for test.

      1. Manufacturer's name
      2. Batch or lot number
      3. Project number
      4. Quantity of material represented

IV. **PROCEDURE.** The container to be sampled shall be thoroughly agitated and mixed by means of an agitating device. (PRECAUTION - rolling and shaking the container will not produce the desired mixing in any reasonable length of time.) At the conclusion of the mixing process, a sample will be taken by means of a sampling device. The sample container shall be filled and tightly sealed.

   **Note 1:** Special pumping equipment, capable of circulating the entire contents of the container from bottom to top may be used, if available. The most practical method of effective agitation is by means of an air-jet from an air compressor of the type commonly found on construction projects. It is necessary to connect a 4 feet (1.3 m) section of pipe to the air-line and pass the pipe to the bottom of the container to be mixed.

   Cautious application of air results in adequate mixing in 15-20 minutes.

   **Note 2:** The sampling device may be a zone sampler, syphon, short piece of pipe or a pump.